4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING WINNERS were, left to right, Beth Marston, Amy Morris, Brian Hudson and Sherry Ferguson; and on back row, left to right, Doug Webb (Farmers National Bank), Brett Marston, David Caldwell, Rhonda Nash, Jo Ann Jamerson, Jennifer Coleman, and Karen Stevens.

Local 4-H youths awarded

Farmers National Bank provided awards for the ninth Annual 4-H Public Speaking program held last Monday at Appmattox Elementary School. Forty-six 4-H'ers took part in the county speaking program with trophies being awarded to the top speakers in each age group.

Mr. Doub Webb of Farmers National Bank presented trophies to Beth Marston whose topic was "Oh, Brother.!", Amy Morris who spoke on "I Love Virginia", Jennifer Coleman whose topic was "Big Red Ranger", Brian Hudson who spoke on "The Night That Changed America", Brett Marston who discussed "Fuels for America's Future", Jo Ann Jamerson whose topic was "My Hair Raising Experience to Wild and Wonderful West Virginia," Sherry Ferguson whose topic was "Music", Karen Stevens who talked on "My Interstate Exchange Experience", David Caldwell whose topic was "Guilty Until Proven Innocent" and Rhonda Nash whose topic was "This Little Light of Mine."

In addition to the trophy winners the following 4-H'ers presented excellent speeches in this year's county program: Jeff Agee, "My Dog Buford"; Eliza Gray, "How The Mind Controls the Way You Feel"; Valarie Guill, "Gymnastics"; Dianne Hamlin, "My Trip to Ohio"; Amy Kerr, "Birds"; Rick Pack, "Man's Best Friend"; Tracy Perkins, "How the Horse Emerged"; Kathy Bryan, "Trees are Renewable"; Jo Anna Layne, "My Friend Rusty"; David O'Brien, "The Horse"; Robby Phillips, "Coin Collecting"; Jessica Stanley, "Stamps are Fun"; Monica Stratton, "Olympic Boycott"; Leigh Ann Taylor, "Niagra Falls"; Kelly Webber, "Squirrels"; Renee Wesley, "Harriet Tubman"; Jonathan White, "Sugar 'n Spice."

Also Cheryl Austin, "Our World of Music"; Billy Carter, "Iran: World Impact"; Nancy Cole, "Ripley's Believe It or Not"; Martha Haley, "Television with Caution"; Lisa Harrison, "Facts, Figures and Forestry"; Ada Hunter, "Helen Keller"; Mark Maryberry, "Things that Make Life Beautiful"; Kelly Neville, "Nutrition"; Emily Shea, "Life Without T.V."; Janet Smith, "Water Conservation"; Russell Walton, "The Universe"; Laurie Cowan, "Consumer Advertising"; Jane Guill, "A Viewpoint of America"; Jennifer Inge, "Parent Abuse"; Susan Shorter, "The Disco Craze"; Allen Smith, "John F. Kennedy-Who Killed Him"; Blair Smith, "Time Marches On"; Ruby Smith, "The Problem No One Talks About"; Laura Walton, "4-H'ers-Leaders of the Future."

The speakers in this year's county 4-H speaking program were selected from over 200 4-H'ers who took part in 4-H Public Speaking. All 4-H'ers who took part received ribbons for their efforts.

4-H Public Speaking provides an opportunity for young people to plan and present topics of their choice in front of an audience. Through the speaking program, young people gain poise and self confidence which will benefit them throughout life.

Jordan news

The senior choir would like to thank everyone who attended their 29th anniversary Sunday night.

There will be a plate supper at the Oakville School Saturday, March 1, at 1 p.m. sponsored by the youth club of the Jordan Baptist Church.

On the first Sunday in March at 7:30, there will be a music program at the Jordan Baptist Church.

On the fourth Sunday in March at 6 p.m., the Gospel Harmonettes will celebrate their anniversary.

Tobacco grade loan rates proposed for '80

By TOM CONRAD

Grade Loan Rates Proposed For 1980-Crop Flue-Cured Tobacco - Tobacco producers are now starting to get plant beds up and flue producers will be interested in knowing that grade loan rates for the 1980 year have been proposed. The proposed loan rates ranging from 88 cents to $1.83 per pound reflect an average support of $1.415 per pound, 12.2 cents above the 1979 level.

USDA is proposing also that eight grades of flue-cured which received price support under past programs not be supported in 1980 because those grades are in excessive supply and have light demand. He listed these grades as P5L, P5F, P5G, N1L, N1XL, N1GL, N1XO and N1PO.

The public is invited to comment on the proposals and may submit written suggestions through March 20.

Loan rates will be discounted 10 percent for any grade of the primings group (including first quality nondescript) which contain moderately more dirt or sand than normal. Tobacco containing excessive sand or dirt will be graded No-G (no grade).

As in the past, no loans will be available on any tobacco grade No-G, N2 (second quality nondescript), W (doubtful keeping order), U (unsound), or scrap. Marketings of these grades, however, will be charged against the quotas for the farms on which they were produced.

The cooperative associations through which advances are made available will be authorized to deduct one cent per pound to apply against overhead costs.

Written comments on the proposed loan rates should be submitted to the Director, Price Support and Loan Division, USDA-ASCS, P. O. Box 2415, Washington, D. C., 20013. Comments will be available for public inspection during regular business hours in the office of the Director, Room 3741 of USDA's South Building.

ASCS Today

Resources Conservation Act - USDA is developing a national program for the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources. The following areas of concern have been identified: water quality, soil resource quantity and quality, water supply and conservation, fish and wildlife habitat, upstream flood damages, energy conservation and production and related natural resources.

Seven strategies have been proposed for public consideration to address specific problems. They are: Redirect present programs, cross compliance, regional resource projects, state leadership, regulations, conservation performance bonus and natural resource contracts.

This is briefly what the Resources Conservation Act is about. You can review RCA documents and summary of them at SCS office, Extension Office or the ASCS office.

A regional meeting will be held in the Courtroom in Farmville on March 19 starting at 10:00 a.m. I urge all farmers to make an effort to attend this meeting because RCA affects you now and will continue to affect you into the future. Also written comments can be made until March 28 to USDA RCA-Response Analysis Center, P. O. Box 888, Athens, Georgia 30603.

Premeasurement Service - Now that plant beds are being gotten up, tobacco farmers should be thinking about premeasurement this year.

Flue, fire and sun producers have to stay within their acreage allotment to be eligible for price support.

In the past years, about 15% of tobacco farms have been checked in the summer to determine compliance. This year all farms will be checked and if your farm has been premeasured, then compliance is guaranteed.

For a nominal fee, the ASCS office will perform this service for you. All you need do is stop by the office to apply.

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Plane crashes in Appomattox

A Piper PA-31 Navajo, piloted by Steven E. Murphy of Maryland crashed off Route 719 about three miles south of Appomattox Friday morning, according to state police. The twin-engine private plane was flying from Norfolk to Roanoke and was forced to make an emergency crash landing in a field. A state police spokesman said the plane was "a total loss". Murphy, the pilot, was uninjured, but Michael Crowley of Maryland, a passenger, suffered minor injuries and was treated at a local doctor's office in Appomattox. State Trooper D. P. Beamon, officer in charge of the investigation, said the plane developed engine trouble, forcing it to land. He said the plane broke apart when it rolled into a ditch in the field.

Appomattox will have a contest

There will be a contest in this Appomattox Town Council election; seven candidates have filed for the six available Town Council seats.

According to Barbara Williams, county clerk, four incumbents as well as three newcomer hopefuls had filed for the election as of the 7 p.m. filing deadline Tuesday.

Incumbents who filed for re-election include Richard L. Bass, Thomas W. Lawson, Robert C. Hubbard and Thomas E. "Sonny" Conner.

Newcomers to the town political ring include Patricia J. Butler, Walter H. Carson, and Raymond A. Noble.

Williams said that incumbent Mayor Ronald C. Spiggle was the only candidate to file for the mayoral election.

In Pamplin there will be no contest according to Williams. Six candidates filed for the six available town council seats, and one candidate filed for the mayoral election.

Those filing for the town council seats include incumbents Roy P. Lucado, Jesse Malcolm, Thomas C. Lagon and George G. Young.

Newcomers who filed for the Pamplin election include William L. Trimyer and Margaret Elder Payne. Mayor James A. Williams will not seek reelection. James M. Webb was the only person to file for the mayor's job.

Williams said the election will be held on May 6. Voting will take place in the Pamplin Fire Hall for the Pamplin election, and in the Appomattox Court House for the Appomattox election.

Students set for competency tests

Plans have been made in Appomattox to administer the Virginia Graduation Competency Tests in reading and mathematics to students in the classes of 1981 and 1982 who have not yet passed one or both tests.

Students eligible to participate in this testing are those who have failed one or both tests, those who were absent during previous testing sessions, and those who have enrolled in Virginia schools recently and have not had the chance to take the tests.

The reading tests will be administered March 10 in the ACHS library during periods 1, 2 and 3 to juniors and during periods 4, 5 and 6 to sophomores. Similiarly, on Wednesday, March 12, the math test will be given to juniors in the morning and to sophomores during the afternoon. Make-up dates due to absences will be scheduled if necessary.

Each graduating senior of the class of 1981 and of each subsequent class will be required to meet the competency level of four areas: reading, math, citizenship and job entry and/or further education.

Because of the importance of passing these tests, emphasis is being placed upon preparation. Appropriate review is being conducted by English and math teachers, and for students not enrolled in a math class, special review classes will be scheduled during the week prior to testing.

Mr. Armentrout, principal, emphasizes the importance of passing these tests before graduation, and stresses the necessity of attendance on test dates. The administration urges parents to make every effort to have students in school for testing on March 10 and 12. Any questions you may have can be directed to the Guidance Department.

Emergency-operations team gets 'workout'

At 4:30 p.m. one Thursday in February, the Appomattox fire department responds to a reported train accident near Church and Main Streets in Appomattox.

On arrival, fire department members find four cars of an eastbound train derailed at the intersection of the tracks and Route 727 (Church Street).

One of the derailed cars, a tank car, has rolled over and is lying on its side across Church Street just south of the tracks. A pool of liquid covering approximately 300 square feet has formed under the car and is running into the storm drain.

Three people in an automobile struck by one of the rail cars are unconscious, and several would-be rescuers appear to have been overcome by the ammonia-like fumes coming from the pool. A quick check of the train contents reveals that the tank car is loaded with Ethyleneimine, a chemical that is poisonous, flammable, and thermally unstable.

What do town officials do in such an emergency?

That was the question posed at a "tabletop disaster" discussion held last week at the Appomattox town office.

Representatives from the different agencies which would participate in the town's emergency operations plan in case of a disaster attended and discussed appropriate actions to take under the scenario outlined above.

In such a disaster, agencies ranging from the County Board of Supervisors to the County Superintendent of Schools would be involved in making decisions and implementing actions.

Town Manager Bill Britton, who organized and coordinated the "tabletop disaster" discussion, called the exercise the "first total step toward solidifying" the Appomattox Emergency Operations Plan.

Britton says the agencies involved in emergency operations -- the fire department, rescue squad, sheriff's office, and others -- have discussed separately what their individual responsibilities would be in case of a widespread emergency. Thursday's exercise was the first time the agencies have discussed a hypothetical emergency together, however.

"Each day, a variety of hazardous materials ranging from poisonous gases and chemicals to radioactive materials pass through Appomattox on the railway and in trucks on Route 460," according to Britton.

This poses the potential threat of hazardous-materials emergencies, such as the one discussed at the tabletop exercise.

And, with the hazardous-materials threat, there is always the chance that a flood (such as that which wracked Nelson County several years ago), or any of a variety of other emergencies, ranging from a runaway fire to a nuclear accident, may occur.

The county has fairly good resources to deal with potential emergencies, according to Britton.

For example, the Department of Health personnel in town would be utilized to set up medical-care centers in an emergency. And the Department of Social Services would be responsible for tasks such as assuring evacuees of emergency lodging and feeding.

School buses could be used to evacuate or transport persons in an emergency, coordinated through Lloyd Walton, superintendent of schools.

Jim Smith of the Virginia Tech Extension Service could be used to help assess dollar damage.

Paramount in any emergency operations plan is communications, according to Britton. The Sheriff's Department, with its radio dispatching equipment, would be in charge of communications in most emergencies.

"The chain of command would start with the chairman of the county Board of Supervisors," according to Britton.

"Of course, there would have to be backups: For example, if Dr. (S.R.) Lawson could not be reached, then we would try to contact another member of the board of supervisors. We would have to be ready for any and everything."

For example, what would be done about the chemical pool leaking into the storm drain? The Fire department and Department of Public Works woul have to dike the water pipe through which the chemical was flowing at some point, to prevent the spread of the chemical and accompanying fumes .

And, a primary consideration at the start of the emergency operations plan for the Ethyleneimine spill would be wind speed and direction, as well as air temperature, so that residents around and downwind of the area could be evacuated along the proper routes, and so that emergency workers coming onto the scene of the accident could be instructed not to drive through the swath of poisonous fumes.

"It's not possible to be ready for every type of emergency that could possibly happen," according to Britton. "But we have to make an effort to prepare for as much as we can. I think the session Thursday was a big step forward in the county's emergency operations plan."

—Father Darkleaf—

By CALVIN ROBINSON

For weeks everyone commented about what a mild winter we were having. All hands were anxious to get into their gardens, spring cleaning, and dress up for Easter. The King Winter lowered the boom. Wham, slam, and a foot of soft snow made the town, county and state look like a freshly made bed after a workday. At the moment a snow shovel is more important than a hoe or rake. And what a fine job done by the highway crews in clearing the main traffic arteries and making possible essential movement. Ah yes, a salute to all, right down to the sidewalk shovelers and porch sweepers. I got out some candles, just in case electric power failed. But never a flicker and so a good word for Vepco. I wrote in my notepad early March 1 that instead of coming in like a lion, March came in like a polar bear. Before I could make use of the item other writers headlined it. Well, maybe March will go out like a withered icicle.

* * *

If the number on your car windshield is 3, you need car inspection this month.

* * *

February had an extra day this year, being Leap Year. Next time there is an extra day, let us give it to June.

* * *

Around the corner ... when all this snow melts, look for the James River and other streams to rise.

* * *

Happy reunion. I have a first cousin who is a prominent Methodist minister. That would be the Rev. J. William Hough, now at a 1,600 member church in Winchester. I had not seen Bill for many, many years, but last Thursday he phoned that he was in Lynchburg and where did I live in Appomattox. In half an hour he drove up in front of 205 Martha Street and we had a happy visit.

* * *

Bro. Thomas Richardson came by a few days ago to bring me a copy of The Lynchburg Weekly NEWS dated April 24, 1890. Most interesting. Had a display adv on the front page, and inside ads from such remembered firms as C. M. Guggenheimer, J. R. Millner and D. Moses. Nearly two pages of copy about the death of a famous preacher, Rev. Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage. Store prices? Heavens to Betsy, men's shirts fifty cents, hats forty-five cents.

* * *

Popular measurements may be 36-24-36, but I have a chart upon which I keep daily weather figures and over the week-end the readings were 12-10-66. Meaning twelve inches of snow, ten degrees outside and 66 inside.

* * *

While scanning the sports pages I keep a watch for Slippery Rock College, a fine teachers school up near Pittsburgh. Had not seen the name since early in the football season, but just came up with news that the Slippery Rock wrestling team met the VPI and SU wrestling team at Blacksburg. At least both were in a regional NCAA tournament.

* * *

We do not have a Rotary Club in Appomattox. I was once a Rotarian, over on The Eastern Shore, years ago. Anyway, this fine civic organization observed its 75th anniversary Feb. 23.

* * *

Sports memo ... Jerry Conner, of Appomattox, is a veteran member of the Lynchburg College golf team.

* * *

Saw only two sleighs on Martha Street and no snowmen. But then I have not been out much during this weather.

* * *

Good time to advertise, for once people get out again there will be lots of shopping to do. Thanks for reading and see ya next week.

'New Virginians' to return

The New Virginians, a popular entertainment group from Virginia Tech, will return to Appomattox this month to present a concert March 28 in the high school auditorium.

The concert, which will begin at 8 p.m. is again being sponsored by the Appomattox Lions Club.

The group, which consists of 20 singers accompanied by a 12-piece stage band, attracted sellout crowds the last two years it appeared here, in 1976 and 1977.

The student organization has received praise from a variety of sources. Richard Robinson, president of the Appomattox Lions Club, said "I believe this is the finest variety entertainment that has ever been offered here in Appomattox."

Virginia Senator Harry F. Byrd said after a New Virginians concert at the Capitol, "It was the most stirring concert ever presented in the Capitol, and I say that as a VMI man."

Tickets for the event are available from Lions Club members, as well as from the following businesses: Appomattox Drug Store, Wilbun's Super market, Fidelity American Bank (Hillcrest branch), Farmer's National Bank (downtown branch), and White's Auto Supply.

A heavy winter storm hit Virginia and other states on the East Coast Saturday and Sunday, and Appomattox was not spared. The 8 to 10 inches of powder which fell here was not nearly as bad as the blizzard which visited other parts of the states, such as Norfolk, where the governor declared a state of emergency. What did come in Appomattox was quickly melting by Monday evening, but piles such as this next to the depot persisted.